IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent, which is an aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent comprising water-absorbent resin particles as essential components, wherein the water-absorbent resin particles are obtained by a process including the steps of polymerizing a water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer and have a crosslinked structure in their inside; with the aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent ~~being characterized by~~ exhibiting an absorption rate (FSR) of not less than 0.2 g/g/s, a water absorption capacity (CRC) of 5 to 25 g/g, a saline flow conductivity (SFC) of not less than 400 x 10^{-7} $cm^3 \cdot s/g$, and a wet porosity of not less than 20 %.

2. (Original) An aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to claim 1, which is a particulate shape and of which not less than 90 weight % is in the form of particles having particle diameters in the range of 150 to 600 μm.

3. (Currently amended) An aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein at least a portion of the water-absorbent resin particles are agglomerate particles.

4. (Currently amended) An aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the water-absorbent particles are surface-crosslinked ones.

5. (Currently amended) An aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, which further comprises a liquid-permeability-enhancing agent.

6. (Original) A process for production of an aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent including water-absorbent resin particles as essential components, which process comprises the steps

of: preparing an aqueous monomer solution including a water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer and an internal-crosslinking agent of not less than 0.2 mol % in ratio to the monomer; and then polymerizing and internal-crosslinking the water-soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer in the aqueous monomer solution to thereby form a hydrogel; and then extruding the hydrogel from a perforated structure having perforation diameters in the range of 0.3 to 6.4 mm to thereby pulverize the hydrogel to thus obtain pulverized gel particles; and then drying the pulverized gel particles to thereby obtain the water-absorbent resin particles.

7. (Original) A process for production of an aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the pulverized gel particles are agglomerates.

8. (Currently amended) A process for production of an aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, which process further comprises the step of surface-crosslinking the water-absorbent resin particles.

9. (Currently amended) A process for production of an aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~ claim 6, which process further comprises the step of subjecting the water-absorbent resin particles to treatment for liquid permeability enhancement.

10. (Original) A process for production of an aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to claim 9, wherein the treatment for liquid permeability enhancement is carried out by adding a liquid-permeability-enhancing agent.

11. (Original) A process for production of an aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to claim 10, wherein the liquid-permeability-enhancing agent is at least one member selected from among polyvalent metal compounds, polycationic compounds, and inorganic fine particles.

12. (Currently amended) A process for production of an aqueous-liquid-absorbing agent according to ~~any one of claims 6 to 11~~ claim 6, wherein the aqueous monomer solution has a monomer concentration of neither lower than 35 weight % nor higher than a saturated concentration.